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WIVENHOE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SURVEYOR and PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1966



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Lexden Grange,
Lexden Road,
Colchester.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on
the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1966.

I have to thank the members of the Council and the
Council's staff for their assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

S. MACMILLAN

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health SYLVIA MACILLAN, M.R.C.S.; I.R.C.P.; M.B.B.S.; D.P.H., Appointed 1st April, 1966. (Time shared with two neighbouring Authorities, and the County Council).

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor -
D. F. SWEETING, M.A.P.H.I.; M.R.S.H.

Assistant to the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor -
M. C. WALKER, A.R.S.H.; M.R.P.A.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health Committee - Chairman Councillor W.J. Cracknell.

Highways & Waterworks Committee - Chairman Councillor E.J. Hatch.

Housing Committee - Chairman Councillor Miss B.A. Grasby.

Finance Committee - Chairman Councillor L.W. Kemble.

Public Hall Committee - Chairman Councillor T.M. Endean.

Chairman of the Council - Councillor E.E.J. Westlake.

Clerk to the Council - W. Trickett A.C.C.S.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	1,493
Registrar General's estimate of resident population 1965	3,830
1966	4,020
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1966) according to Rate Book	1,394
Rateable Value	£95,468
Sum represented by a penny rate	£383

The district is situated on the east bank of the River Colne where its waters are tidal. It is about four miles down the river from Colchester, and it is also on the main line from London to Clacton-on-Sea. Local industries are shipbuilding, general engineering, agriculture and clothing manufacture. It is also a small yachting and fishing centre. Half the working population find their employment outside the district.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS
OF THE YEAR

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(all	67	57	124
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate	62	53	115
(Illegitimate	5	4	9

Illegitimate live births as % of total live births 7.2%

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 30.8
 Comparability factor 1.12
 Corrected rate 31.4
 England and Wales 17.7

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
STILL-BIRTHS	0	0	0
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			0
Total births			124

INFANTS DEATHS

Under 1 Year All 0
 Under 4 weeks All 0
 In first week All 0
 Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. 0
 Legitimate infants deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 0
 Infant mortality England and Wales 19.0

Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. 0

Early neonatal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000
 related births 0

Perinatal mortality rate (still-births plus deaths during
 first week per 1,000 total live and still-births) 0
 Maternal deaths 0
 Maternal morality rate 0
 Total deaths M - 16 F - 13 TOTAL - 29
 Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 7.2
 Comparability factor 1.11
 Corrected death rate 8.0
 England and Wales 11.7

Deaths in various age groups (local statistics).

Under 4 weeks	0	35 - 45 years	0
4 weeks - 1 year	0	45 - 55 years	0
1 - 5 years	0	55 - 65 years	6
5 - 15 years	0	65 - 75 years	7
15 - 25 years	0	75 and over	16
25 - 35 years	0		

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus		1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	0	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1	2	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	5	10
Other Heart Disease	1	2	3
Other Circulatory Disease	1	1	2
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>29</u>

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948/51

No action under this Act was necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No cases of infectious disease were notified.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, when a bacteriological analysis is required, and to the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., when a chemical or complete analysis is required.

Samples of food and ice cream etc., are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Ambulance Facilities.

Non-emergency calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

If there is a dialling system in operation, dial "999" "0" or "01" and ask for ambulance.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Pre-natal and post-natal clinics.	Vaccination and immunisation against
Maternity and child welfare services.	diphtheria and whooping cough.
Nursing in the home.	Provision of nursing equipment and
Mental Welfare.	apparatus.
School Health Service.	

Pre-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Infant Welfare Clinics and Relaxation Classes are held at the St. John's Ambulance (Wivenhoe) Headquarters on first and third Tuesdays at 1.45 p.m.

Family Planning Clinic is provided under the auspices of the Family Planning Association at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester. Telephone Colchester 51 Extension 3.

A new central clinic and Health Offices at East Lodge Court, High Street, Colchester are under construction which should be in use by mid 1967.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

1. Mains Water Supply. The Tendring Hundred Waterworks Co. continued as the statutory undertaking responsible for the supply of water throughout the Council's district. I am indebted to their Chief Engineer Mr. W. A. Burrow, M.I.Mech., M.I.W.E. for the following information:-

Approximately 739 yds. of new mains of 4" and 6" diameter have been laid in the district during the year. Practically the whole district was supplied from the Pumping Station Queens Road, Wivenhoe the remainder being provided from the Dedham Pumping Station. The quantity of water supplied during the year amounted to 154.879 million gallons, an average daily consumption of 0.150 million gallons of which the domestic use accounted for a total of 41.623 million gallons an average daily consumption of 0.114 million gallons. Trade meter supplies accounted for a total of 13.256 million gallons an average daily consumption of 0.036 million gallons.

Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses.Queens Road Pumping Station.

Colour.	4
pH.	7.8
Electric Conductivity	1,200
Chlorine present as Chloride.	415
Hardness. Total	140
Carbonate.	140
Non-Carbonate.	0
Nitrate Nitrogen.	0.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen.	0.15
Albuminoid Nitrogen.	0.02
Metals (Iron).	0.14
Turbidity.	NIL
Odour.	NIL
Free Carbon Dioxide.	8
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.	290
Nitrite Nitrogen.	less than 0.01
Oxygen absorbed.	0.00
Residual chlorine.	absent

Bacteriological Results.

	<u>1 day at 37°C.</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C.</u>	<u>3 days at 20°C.</u>
No. of Colonies developing on Agar.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
	Present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	

Remarks. This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate. The somewhat high content of mineral and saline constituents is typical of this source. The water conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses. Its known content of flourine is however greater than the amount considered most desirable (from the aspect of causing mottled enamel). A slight saline taste due to the content of sodium chloride may be noticable to some consumers.

Dedham Pumping Station

Colour.	4
pH.	7.7
Electric Conductivity.	900
Chlorine present as Chloride.	137
Hardness. Total.	295
Carbonate.	260
Non-Carbonate.	35
Nitrate Nitrogen.	0.3
Ammoniacal Nitrogen.	0.42
Albuminoid Nitrogen.	0.01
Metals (Iron).	0.20
Turbidity.	NIL
Odour.	NIL
Free Carbon Dioxide.	16
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.	275
Nitrite Nitrogen.	less than 0.01
Oxygen absorbed.	0.20
Residual chlorine.	0.1

Bacteriological Results.

	<u>1 day at 37°C.</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C.</u>	<u>3 days at 20°C.</u>
No. of Colonies developing on Agar.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
	<u>Present in</u>	<u>Absent from</u>	<u>Probable No.</u>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	0 ml.	100 ml.	0 per ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	0 ml.	100 ml.	

Remarks. These samples are **practically** clear and bright in appearance have a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and are free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

All samples were analysed by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The Water Co., submitted to the Council a revised plan for the construction of a low level storage tank of 60,000 gallon capacity a third of which it is proposed to sink into the ground. This plan has received approval from the Council and work is scheduled to start on the erection in March 1967.

2. Sewer and Sewerage. This is the first full year that the Wivenhoe Sewer has been in operation taking approximately two thirds of the Town's sewerage to be treated at the Haven Works, Colchester. This scheme has proved most successful. Although the Council's disposal works has operated on flows similar to those for which it was originally designed the effluent though improved is still unsatisfactory. One filter distributor was found to have a defective central column which is now on order but as delivery is not promised for five months little immediate improvement can be expected in the quality of the effluent. When the new column is fitted the arms of both filter distributors will also be replaced. A portable pump has been purchased during the year for the recirculation of sludge bed and humus tank liquor. Maintenance at the Pumping Station has included the renewal of three pump/motor couplings and the refixing of one of the duty pumps.

Restrictions on the development of Stages 2 & 3 of the Queens Road Estate have been made and arrangements are being considered by the developers to pump the sewerage from this site to the Wivenhoe Sewer subject to the approval of the Council and the Colchester Borough Council.

3. Public Cleansing. In February a Massey Ferguson Tractor Shovel was purchased and immediately commenced on the extension of the tip area for which permission under the Town & Country Planning Acts and the Essex County Council Act had just been obtained. This work involved the removal of many trees and the piping of a small stream which cut across the extended site. The area has been enclosed with a chain link and barbed wire fence. Part of the original tip is now outside this enclosure and has been brought into the recreational area of the adjoining Playing Fields. Top soil from the new tip area is suitable for the covering of refuse and the Council has been operating controlled tipping methods since March. Difficulty was at first experienced in gaining access to the lower part of the new tip but after cutting a northern roadway through the old refuse tip access has greatly improved. Work has commenced on a second vehicular access to the south of the old tipping area.

There was a slight decrease in the amount of paper salvage collected this year - 5½ tons were baled and sold to the Thames Board Ltd.

4. Petroleum Storage - Movable Dwellings and House Boats. No change in the number of licences or premises occurred for the above purposes. The site for the two licenced house-boats has changed hands and the new owner does not wish to hire out his moorings. The owner of the house-boats received a request in November to find other moorings but they were still at the same site when the year ended.
5. Council House Maintenance. As during last year all the pre-war houses were brought up to modern standards fitting new baths and wash-basins, there were not any programmes of major improvement carried out to the Council owned properties.

The external painting of 26 properties was carried out by the Council's housing repairs tradesman augmented by a retired painter who worked part time.

6. Housing. The rate of building almost doubled last years figures, 74 dwellings were erected which is very similar to the 1964 total.

In March a contract commenced for the building of six Council flats known as Corsellis House. At the end of the year these were almost completed and tenants should be moving in during the first two weeks of 1967. Included in this contract are four garages - a request to extend the Contract to complete the garage block with a further six units was rejected by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

In mid December planning permission was received for the erection of 6 three bedroom Council houses in two terraces. The siting of these houses to be at the bottom of Rosabelle Avenue and these properties will be known as 54 - 58 Rosabelle Avenue and 8 - 12 Parkwood Avenue. Approval to the scheme by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is awaited.

Steady progress was made in connection with slum clearance in the year, 6 properties being the subject of Closing Orders four of these are houses forming part of a terrace which when the whole is vacated, the Council intend to change the Closing Orders to Demolition Orders. The other closed properties, one house and one flat, however, are both being considered by their owners for renovation and improvement but formal approval to the schemes has not yet been requested.

Approval was given to 3 applications for Standard Grants which is the same number as last year. £1618 was paid to owners of 10 properties for works completed - this is more than a threefold increase on last year both as regards to the sum involved and the number of properties. Again the majority of applications came from owner/occupiers - only one application of the 3 was for a tenanted property.

Once again a nil return was sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as a result of the survey of gypsies in the district which took place here as throughout the country in March.

7. New Buildings. 255 Plans for new buildings or alterations were deposited 41 of which were rejected under the Building Regulations the remainder being approved. The large number of rejections was mainly due to one particular estate development where kitchen/refuse container arrangements were unsatisfactory.

The bringing into operation on February 1st of the Building Regulations caused a great deal of extra work with the additional enquiries and checking which any change in the standards of control naturally generates. This change has brought into being a Monthly meeting of Local Authority Officers responsible for the operation of the Building Regulations in the area east of Colchester, which I attended, to assist each other and the general public in obtaining, as far as possible, a standard interpretation of the Regulations.

The growth of building at the University of Essex is similar to last year. Alterations to the old house, the completion of the Vice-Chancellor's house and a major portion of physics building and commencement of the library together with the general site works have taken place.

8. Roads. Tower Road was surfaced under the Highways Act - Private Street Works, continuing the Council's practice of gradual improvement within the area. The Contract has not been completed as the footpaths generally and an area of road are not satisfactory. The Contractors have been asked to return to complete these items. A preliminary report and plan, specification and provisional apportionments for the making up of the unmade section of Queens Road has been received and approved by the Council.

With the co-operation of the owner and occupier, the ground adjoining the Post Office on its Queens Road frontage has been lowered and a tarmac footpath with standard kerbing has been laid by the Council. This has greatly improved a road junction which was dangerous to pedestrians.

The first phase of the work for the provision of a car park in the South East corner of the playing fields has been completed. This included the laying of hardcore over the whole area, the construction of new vehicular and pedestrian means of access and footpath together with the erection of an enclosing fence and surfacing with hoggin of approximately half the car park. A pedestrian controlled vibrating roller was purchased during the year which has greatly assisted in the carrying out of road repairs and improvements.

Conversions from 100 watt tungsten to 80 watt M.B.F.U. lamps has been carried out to all road junctions with the High Street. The policy of additional lights and replacement of obsolete fittings has continued. The Council approved an alternative type of light fitting for estate development, which is a post top lantern. The 144 houses in Ernest Road, Harvey Road, Manor Road and Stanley Road have been numbered.

9. Food. Two complaints regarding milk supplies were received, one of the quality of the milk and the other of dirty bottles. Two bottles of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Ipswich for Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests and satisfactory results were obtained which satisfied the first complainant. The latter complaint concerned a school supply which created a greater hazard as children handled the bottles and obtained the milk by merely piercing the top with a straw. The bottles were badly splashed with mud on the top and sides. Representations were made to the supplier who agreed to investigate the possibilities of having screens fitted to the side of their low loading delivery lorry. As the supplier ceased almost immediately to bring milk into the area I was unable to follow up the proposed preventative measures.

1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. of frozen plaice, which was unfit due to decomposition, was surrendered to and disposed of by the Council. One new licence for the storage and sale of ice cream was issued by the Council

10. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. A rise in the number of properties visited for the extermination of rats occurred this year. In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, (Chelmsford and Cambridge Offices) a two day operators course was arranged at the Public Hall for four Council employees. Invitations were sent to neighbouring Authorities and one operator from Brightlingsea joined the course. The Council are now very well staffed to deal with this aspect of their duties. The number of wasp nests dealt with during the year dropped sharply to 3 from 16 recorded last year and no complaints were received concerning bee swarms.

Properties Inspected.	45
Rat Infestation found.	41
Mice Infestation found.	4
Infested properties treated.	45
Block control treatment.	-
Notices served under Section 4.	-

11. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. A further four retail shops and one office have been registered in which a total of 10 persons are stated to be employed. The total premises registered at the end of the year were 7 offices and 19 shops in which is employed a total of 197 persons. 63 inspections were made of premises under this Act resulting in the service of 10 informal Notices, work on two of these has now been completed.

Analysis of Inspections.

Public Health Act	187	Playing Fields	1	126
Housing Act	57	Cemetery	.	86
Water	5	Churchyard		21
Council House Maintenance	640	Roads		478
New Buildings	825	Salvage		11
Sewers	279	Allotments		13
Drain Tests	103	Miscellaneous		53
Refuse	604	Houseboats		15
Street Cleansing	46	Town & Country Planning Acts		87
Street Lighting	135	Food Premises		29

Moveable Dwellings	6	Quay Shelter and Seats	11
Town Ditch	5	Housing Applications	3
Private Street Works	63	Petroleum Acts	6
Factories	23	Highways Act	35
Pest Act	15	Offices, Shops and Railway	
Public Hall	73	Premises Act	63
Public Footpaths	31	Public Conveniences	13
Car Park	51	House Numbering	180
Outworkers	2		

Notices Served.

Public Health Act	(formal)	Served	1
" " "	"	Abated	1
" " "	(informal)	Served	12
" " "	"	Abated	10
Housing Act	(formal)	Served	12
" "	"	Abated	12
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	(informal)	Served	10
" " " " " "	"	Abated	2

Factories Act 1937-59. Routine inspections have been made during the year as follows:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>	<u>Notices Served</u>	<u>Abated</u>
1. Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	8	1	1
2. Factories not included in 1, in which section 7 is enforced by the local Authority	14	10	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority (excluding outworks premises)	5	5	-	-

One factory, The Colchester Manufacturing Co. included above, closed in April.

Two notifications were received of outworkers in the district both of whom were employed in the clothing industry. The conditions in which both these persons work are satisfactory.

